

Attorney Docket No.: 108-151USAN80

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Continuation Application of:

Applicants : Constantine J. Tsikos; at al.
Application No.: 09/990,585
Filing Date : November 21, 2001

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced Patent Application, please amend the same as follows:

AMENDMENT OF THE TITLE TO INVENTION

Please amend the Title To Invention to read as follows:

-- PROGRAMMABLE DATA ELEMENT QUEUING, HANDLING, PROCESSING AND LINKING DEVICE INTEGRATED INTO AN OBJECT IDENTIFICATION AND ATTRIBUTE ACQUISITION SYSTEM--

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph of Page 1, entitled "Cross-Reference to Related U.S. Application" as follows:

This is a Continuation of copending Application No. 09/990,585 filed November 21, 2001 which is a Continuation-in-Part of: copending Application Serial No. 09/999,687 [09/---,--- [not yet assigned]] filed October 31, 2001 [[Attorney Docket 108-146USA000]]; copending Application Serial No. 09/954,477 filed September 17, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/883,130 filed June 15, 2001, which is a Continuation-in-Part of Application Serial No. 09/781,665 filed February 12, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/780,027 filed February

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as follows:

A programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device integrated into an object identification and attribute acquisition system operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device comprises a first data element input unit, a second data element input unit, and a programmable data element tracking and linking module. The first data element input unit receives object identity data from an object identity data producing source embodied within the object identification and attribute acquisition system. The second data element input unit receives corresponding object attribute data from an object attribute data producing source embodied within the object identification and attribute acquisition system. The programmable data element tracking and linking module links (i) object identity data to (ii) corresponding object attribute data to form a composite data element, for use by a host system.--

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS TO INVENTION:

Please cancel Claims 1-669 and add new Claims 670-675 as follows:

--670. A programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device integrated into an object identification and attribute acquisition system operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment, said programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device comprising:

 a first data element input unit for receiving object identity data from an object identity data producing source embodied within said object identification and attribute acquisition system;

 a second data element input unit for receiving corresponding object attribute data from an object attribute data producing source embodied within said object identification and attribute acquisition system; and

 a programmable data element tracking and linking module for linking (i) object identity data to (ii) corresponding object attribute data to form a composite data element, for use by a host system.--

--671. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism of claim 670, wherein each said object attribute data element is an element selected from the group of object dimension-related data, object-weight data, object-content data, and object-interior data.--

--672. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism of claim 670, wherein said object identification and attribute acquisition system comprises a PLIIM-based object identification and attribute acquisition system.--

--673. A programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem integrated into a PLIIM-based object identification and attribute acquisition system having a source of object identity data elements and a source of object attribute data elements and operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment, said programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem comprising:

 a first data element input unit for receiving object identity data elements as inputs from said source of object identity data elements;

a second data element input unit for receiving object attribute data elements as inputs from said source of object attribute data elements; and

a mechanism for queuing, handling, processing and linking said object identity data element inputs and said object attribute data element inputs, and generating as an output, for each object identity data element supplied as input, a combined data element comprising an object identity data element, and one or more object attribute data elements from said source of object attribute data elements.--

--674. The programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem of claim 673, wherein said source of object identity data elements is selected from the group consisting of a bar code symbol reader, RFID reader, and the like.--

--675. The programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem of claim 673, wherein said object attribute data elements are selected from the group consisting of object dimensions, weight, x-ray analysis, neutron beam analysis, and the like.--

REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.121

As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean version of the first paragraph of Page 1 is as follows:

This is a Continuation of copending Application No. 09/990,585 filed November 21, 2001 which is a Continuation-in-Part of: copending Application Serial No. 09/999,687 filed October 31, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/954,477 filed September 17, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/883,130 filed June 15, 2001, which is a Continuation-in-Part of Application Serial No. 09/781,665 filed February 12, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/780,027 filed February 9, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/721,885 filed November 24, 2000; Application Serial No. 09/327,756 filed June 7, 1999; and International Application Serial No. PCT/US00/15624 filed June 7, 2000, published as WIPO WO 00/75856 A1; each said application being commonly owned by Assignee, Metrologic Instruments, Inc., of Blackwood, New Jersey, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein in its entirety.

As further required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean version of the Abstract is set forth below:

ABSTRACT OF INVENTION

A programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device integrated into an object identification and attribute acquisition system operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device comprises a first data element input unit, a second data element input unit, and a programmable data element tracking and linking module. The first data element input unit receives object identity data from an object identity data producing source embodied within the object identification and attribute acquisition system. The second data element input unit receives corresponding object attribute data from an object attribute data producing source embodied within the object identification and attribute acquisition system. The programmable data element tracking and linking module links (i) object identity data to (ii) corresponding object attribute data to form a composite data element, for use by a host system.

Also required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean set of the amended Claims is provided herebelow:

670. A programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device integrated into an object identification and attribute acquisition system operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment, said programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking device comprising:

- a first data element input unit for receiving object identity data from an object identity data producing source embodied within said object identification and attribute acquisition system;

- a second data element input unit for receiving corresponding object attribute data from an object attribute data producing source embodied within said object identification and attribute acquisition system; and

- a programmable data element tracking and linking module for linking (i) object identity data to (ii) corresponding object attribute data to form a composite data element, for use by a host system.

671. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism of claim 670, wherein each said object attribute data element is an element selected from the group of object dimension-related data, object-weight data, object-content data, and object-interior data.

672. The programmable data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism of claim 670, wherein said object identification and attribute acquisition system comprises a PLIIM-based object identification and attribute acquisition system.

673. A programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem integrated into a PLIIM-based object identification and attribute acquisition system having a source of object identity data elements and a source of object attribute data elements and operated in either a singulated or non-singulated object transport environment, said programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem comprising:

- a first data element input unit for receiving object identity data elements as inputs from said source of object identity data elements;

- a second data element input unit for receiving object attribute data elements as inputs from said source of object attribute data elements; and

a mechanism for queuing, handling, processing and linking said object identity data element inputs and said object attribute data element inputs, and generating as an output, for each object identity data element supplied as input, a combined data element comprising an object identity data element, and one or more object attribute data elements from said source of object attribute data elements.

674. The programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem of claim 673, wherein said source of object identity data elements is selected from the group consisting of a bar code symbol reader, RFID reader, and the like.

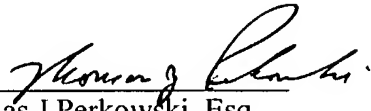
675. The programmable data-element queuing, handling and processing subsystem of claim 673, wherein said object attribute data elements are selected from the group consisting of object dimensions, weight, x-ray analysis, neutron beam analysis, and the like.

REMARKS

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 16-1340. A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 27, 2002

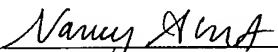

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